

**In the Claims:**

1. (original) Self-tapping screw (1), whose threads in a rear area (5) (facing the head) have a substantially cylindrical external diameter and, in a front area (4) (facing away from the head), extend with an external diameter which decreases towards the end of the screw, characterized in that, both in the rear area (5) and in the front area (4), the threads have an asymmetrical cross section with a bisector (9) of the flank angle ( $\alpha$ ,  $\gamma$ ), measured at the thread tips (13), which is located obliquely with respect to the axial course of the core (10) and which reverses from the rear area (5) (first cross section) towards the front area (4) (second cross section), the bisector (9) in the front area (4) being inclined towards the screw head (2), and the reversal point (6) of the thread cross section being placed such that the first cross section is substantially present in the rear area (5), the second cross section substantially in the front area (4).

2. (original) Screw according to Claim 1, characterized in that the bisector (9) in both areas (4, 5) is inclined at about  $82^\circ$  to the axial course of the core (10).

3. (currently amended) Screw according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the reversal point (6) of the thread cross section is located at the transition from the rear area (5) to the front area (4).

4. (currently amended) Screw according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the reversal point (6) of the thread cross section is located in front of the transition from the rear area (5) to the front area (4).

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5. (currently amended) Screw according to Claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, characterized in that the reversal point (6) is located behind the transition from the rear area (5) to the front area (4).

6. (currently amended) Screw according to Claim 1 ~~one of Claims 1 to 5~~, characterized in that the first cross section runs in mirror-image fashion in relation to the second cross section.

7. (currently amended) Screw according to Claim 1 ~~one of Claims 1 to 6~~, characterized in that both the load flank (12) and the rear flank (11) of the threads run rectilinearly.

8. (currently amended) Screw according to Claim 1 ~~one of Claims 1 to 6~~, characterized in that, in the rear area (5), the load flank (12) runs rectilinearly and the rear flank (11) runs from the external diameter to the thread base (14) over a bend (15) to a greater flank angle ( $\delta$ ) and, in the front area (4), the rear flank (11) runs rectilinearly and the load flank (12) runs from the external diameter to the thread base (14) over a bend (15) to a greater flank angle ( $\delta$ ).

9. (original) Screw according to Claim 8, characterized in that the bend (15) is located at 20% to 15% of the thread height.

10. (currently amended) Screw according to Claim 8 ~~or~~ 9, characterized in that the flank angle  $\delta$  of the bent thread flank is approximately  $70^\circ$  in the region between thread base (14) and bend (15) and approximately  $45^\circ$  in the area between bend (15) and thread tip (13).

11. (currently amended) Screw according to Claim 1 ~~one of Claims 1 to 40~~, characterized in that the flank angle ( $\alpha$ ,  $\gamma$ ) measured at the thread tips (13) is equal in both areas and is approximately 45°.

12. (currently amended) Screw according to Claim 1 ~~one of Claims 1 to 40~~, characterized in that the flank angle ( $\alpha$ ,  $\gamma$ ) measured at the thread tips (13) is greater in the front area (4) than in the rear area (5).

13. (currently amended) Screw according to Claim 1 ~~one of Claims 1 to 42~~, characterized in that the threads run out to a point in both areas.

14. (currently amended) Screw according to Claim 1 ~~one of Claims 1 to 43~~, characterized in that, in the area of the reversal point (6), individual thread tips run with a flat (16) over a circumferential angle of about > 90°.